

Negotiating the politics of Masses: How the Salvadoran Popular Mass shaped the relation between the Working Class and the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador

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El Salvador is a country characterized by its incessant political instability, social polarization, estate corruption, and public insecurity. The second half of the twentieth century proved to be a turbulent period for the country, especially from the seventies to the nineties. The political repression, religious persecution, and social discomfort caused a civil war to break out in 1980 after the assassination of the Archbishop of El Salvador, Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero. During the course of these decades, several different protest songs were composed as single units which were later merged to create the Misa Popular Salvadoreña (Salvadoran Popular Mass), emulating other masses created in Latin America. These masses are understood to denounce the political and religious persecution to which the working classes were subject to. In this research I seek to understand how the Misa Popular Salvadoreña has proved to be a force that facilitates the relationship between the Salvadoran working class and the Catholic Church, describing how a network of participation and communication was established through music.

Key words: El Salvador, Salvadoran Civil War, Misa Popular Salvadoreña, Protest Song, Latin America

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